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ABSTRACT

Several publications offer summaries and analyses of the recent national reports on education. "The Reports: Challenge & Opportunity" (Phi Delta Kappa 1983) compares the recommendations of three 1983 studies from: National Commission on Excellence in Education ("A Nation at Risk"), 20th Century Fund, and Education Commission of the States Task Force on Education for Economic Growth. "Education Under Study: An Analysis of Recent Major Reports on Education" (Griesemer and Butler 1983) includes these three studies in addition to six others from: (1) College Board (1983); (2) Business-Higher Education Forum (1983); (3) Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching (1983); (4) Adler and the Paideia Group (1982); (5) Goodlad (1983); and (6) National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and National Association of Independent Schools (1984). The Griesemer and Butler book also includes synopses of 20 lesser-known reports. Rickell and Paul have prepared a four-page checklist based on "A Nation at Risk." Five individuals and organizations have issued early summaries of the major reports, mainly for their own constituencies. A wall map comparing seven major reports is available from NASSP. "A Nation at Risk" and its commissioned papers have been entered into the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) system. This bibliography includes ordering information for all of the summaries and reports listed. (DC)

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Where To Find Summaries of Recent Reports on Education

By Franklin Parker

The year 1983 will go down in educational history if for no other reason than for the sheer number and impact of national reports critical of American education. The following easily available publications offer summaries and analyses.

Phi Delta Kappa's The Reports: Challenge & Opportunity (1983, 12 pages, $ .50 each, $6.25 per packet of 25 copies, from Phi Delta Kappa, 8th and Union Streets, P.O. Box 789, Bloomington, IN 47402, phone 812-339-1156) summarizes and compares the recommendations made in the following three reports. The brochure specifically states that the material is not copyrighted and may be reproduced freely.

1. National Commission on Excellence in Education, A Nation at Risk: The Imperative for Educational Reform (1983, 65 pages, $4.50, specify #065-000-00177-2, from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402).
2. Twentieth Century Fund...Report on Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Policy, Making the Grade (1983, 174 pages, $6, from 20th Century Fund, 41 East 70th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021).
3. Education Commission of the States Task Force on Education for Economic Growth, Action for Excellence (1983, 53 pages, $5, from

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Distribution Center, Education Commission of the States, Suite 300, 1860 Lincoln Street, Denver, CO 80295). Also ask for a free Task Force Information Kit that supplements Action for Excellence.

A more ambitious and thorough analysis was developed by J. Lynn Griesemer and Cornelius Butler, Education Under Study: An Analysis of Recent Major Reports on Education, 2nd edition (1983, 75 pages, $5 paperback with lower prices for quantities, Northeast Regional Exchange, 160 Turnpike Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824, phone 617-256-3987). This analysis, chosen to be distributed at the National Forum on Excellence in Education, held December 6-8, 1983, Indianapolis, IN, gives synopses of nine reports. The above-mentioned three reports are included, as are the following six reports:

4. The College Board, Academic Preparation for College: What Students Need to Know and Be Able to Do (1983, 46 pages, single copy free, write for prices of multiple copies, from Office of Academic Affairs, The College Board, 888 Seventh Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10106).
5. The Business-Higher Education Forum, America's Competitive Challenge: The Need for a National Response (1983, 51 pages, $17.50, includes "The Report in Brief," 15 pages, from Business-Higher Education Forum, Suite 800, One Dupont Circle, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036).
6. Ernest L. Boyer, President, The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, High School: A Report on Secondary Education in America (1983, 379 pages, $15, from Harper & Row Publishers, 10 East 53rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10022).

7. Mortimer J. Adler and the Paideia Group, The Paideia Proposal: An Educational Manifesto (1982, 84 pages, $2.95, from Macmillan Publishing Co., 866 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022).
8. John I. Goodlad, A Place Called School: Prospects for the Future (1983, 416 pages, from McGraw Hill Book Co., $18.95, Princeton Road, Hightstown, NJ. 08520).
9. National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Association of Independent Schools, A Study of High Schools, consisting of three books to be published in 1984 by Houghton Mifflin Co., 2 Park Street, Boston, MA 02107.
   A. Theodore R. Sizer, Horace's Compromise: The Dilemma of the American High School.
   B. Robert L. Hampel, American High Schools Since 1940 (tentative title).
   C. Arthur G. Powell and others, untitled comparative analysis of fifteen high schools.

   For a brochure on the project, write: A Study of High Schools, 18 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02108.

The Griesemer and Butler book also includes synopses, ordering information, and addresses of 20 other lesser known but important reports. Table I presents a "Profile of Reports." Table II is a checklist comparison of recommendations in the nine major reports in terms of School Organization and Management, Curriculum, Students and Learning, Quality and Equality, Teachers and Teaching, Postsecondary Education, Leadership Role (local, state, federal, business and industry), and Research.

A very useful four-page A Nation at Risk, Checklist for Excellence, For Use by School Boards, Administrators, Teachers, Students, and Citizens was prepared and initially distributed free in limited quantities by Henry M. Rickell and Regina H. Paul, Policy Studies in Education, 475 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10010, phone 212-683-4144.

Individuals and organizations who issued early summaries of the major reports, mainly for their own constituencies, include the following:

1. K. Forbis Jordan, Senior Specialist in Education, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540: 11-page comparative summary of five major reports.
2. Edward Copeland, Chairman, Illinois State Board of Education, 100 North First Street, Springfield, IL 62777, phone 217-783-4321: 11-page comparative summary of four major reports.
3. Penelope M. Earley, Director of Federal and State Relations, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, 1 Dupont Circle, Suite 610, Washington, D.C. 20036, phone 202-293-2450: 38-page "A Summary of Twelve National Reports on Education and Their Implications for Teacher Education."
4. Katherine C. Lovell, 802 Allen, Evansdale, West Virginia University, P.O. Box 6122, Morgantown, WV 26506-6122, phone 304-293-5703: 21-page comparison of seven major reports.
5. Change, A Magazine of Higher Learning, Volume 15, Number 8 (November/December 1983), pages 38-43, presents digests of six major reports.

A wall map "Almanac of National Reports," August 1983, $2, comparing seven major reports, is available from The National Association of Secondary School Principals, 1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA 22091, phone 703-860-0200.

A Nation at Risk and its commissioned papers are in the ERIC system, annotated in Resources in Education, June, July, and August 1983. For the annotations and ordering information write National Commission on Excellence in Education, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20208.